



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Ted Thomas, DWR Information Officer – (916) 653-9712

DWR Celebrates 50 years of Moving Water through the State Water Project

SACRAMENTO – On May 10, 1962, top water leaders joined then-Governor Pat Brown as he lifted a plank to start the flow of water into the State Water Project's South Bay Aqueduct. A half-century later, with Pat Brown's son Governor Jerry Brown serving in office, we celebrate 50 years of moving California's water through the State Water Project.

State and local water officials gathered at Bethany Reservoir on May 15 to commemorate the first SWP water delivery.

DWR Director Mark Cowin repeated the words said 50 years ago by then-DWR Director William Warne about the first delivery of project water through the South Bay Aqueduct into Alameda County: "Through the canals and reservoirs of the State Water Project will flow water, the liquid lifeline."

“He was right,” said Cowin. “California's history, landscape and economy have been shaped by water, aided by thousands of dedicated men and women who have worked on the State Water Project, the Central Valley Project, and countless other local water systems that serve our communities, farms and families.”

The first SWP water delivery was pumped from Bethany Reservoir through the South Bay Pumping Plant into South Bay Aqueduct for deliveries to the Bay Area water users.

Besides Cowin, speakers at event included SWP Deputy Director Carl Torgersen, Association of California Water Agencies Executive Director Tim Quinn; State Water Contractors Board Member Stephen Arakawa; General Manager of Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 Jill Duerig; and DWR retirees Art Winslow and Herb Greydanus.

“Today’s event is a good reminder that with vision, dedication, and strong partnerships, we can meet the milestones of sustainable, integrated water management,” said Cowin.

For five decades, the State Water Project has moved water for urban, agricultural and industrial uses, in addition to providing flood control, water quality improvements, fish and wildlife protection, enhancement of the natural environment, recreation, and power generation.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local

water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.